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Regenerative & Cellular Sciences

An Interactive Workshop

GET: Social Values

Governing Emerging Technologies: Social Values and Stem Cell Regulation in Argentina



Introduction

The Principal Investigator for the GET: Social Values project is Shawn H.E. Harmon, who acknowledges the generous support of the ESRC (Award RES-000-22-2678), and it is undertaken with the collaboration of Fabiana Arzuaga, and the support of Prof. Graeme Laurie, SCRIPT and InnoGen.

Aims & Objectives

The GET: Social Values project examines the conduct and motivating values of Argentine stakeholders as they face the legal, moral and practical challenges surrounding the governance of stem cell research and endeavour to formulate socially acceptable regulatory structures applicable thereto. Objectives include mapping the most salient features of the social/moral/legal debates, developing dialogues with stakeholders to reveal the multiple goals envisioned for regulation, and contributing to the debate surrounding and formulation of value-sensitive regulatory models. In addition to facilitating communication amongst stakeholders, it is expected that the project will: (1) highlight the importance of values to the legitimacy and quality of regulation; (2) explore those values with individuals operating in this arena; and (3) identify opportunities to translate values into effective regulation within this developing economy.

Methodology

The GET: Social Values project design is intended to maximise the potential for information supportive of analysis of the key issues involved, including the existence of a disconnect between moral aspiration and rhetoric, on the one hand, and legal output, on the other. It will consist of documentary research, an interactive workshop with stakeholder participants, and some 20-25 semi-structured interviews with key Argentine stakeholders.

Outputs

The GET: Social Values project will produce policy briefs, academic papers, posters, and a variety of reports.

Workshop Agenda

09:00 – 09:30	Registration (juice, biscuits, mingle in poster area)
09:30 – 10:00	Introduction Arzuaga: Welcome, objectives and instructions and form 3 groups Harmon: Outline the GET: Social Values Project Laurie: Outline the ProReg Biotech Project
10:00 – 10:20	Mingle and Review Posted Material and Ask Questions
10:20 – 10:40	Groups to consider Issue I
10:40 – 11:00	Groups to consider Issue II
11:00 – 11:10	Tea Break
11:10 – 11:30	Groups to consider Issue III
11:30 – 11:50	Groups to consider Issue IV
11:50 – 12:35	Rapporteurs have 15 minutes to report back to the plenary
12:35 – 13:00	Floor is open to all participants to discuss any aspect of the workshop's subject matter (Rapporteurs to take notes).
13:00 – 13:15	Closing Laurie: Summarise some of the key concerns and solutions Harmon: Explain the distribution of the Workshop Report Arzuaga: Thank you and what next

Workshop Questions

ISSUE I: Demands of the Research and Clinical Settings

- What is the value of stem cells?
- What sources are considered best and by whom?
- What moral/ethical issues are raised by each technique/source?
- How would you resolve them?
- Other considerations / thoughts?

ISSUE II: Legitimate Sources of Norms

- What should be the fount of moral values (where should moral values come from)?
- What is the role of moral theory or moral thinking to creating a governance framework?
- What moral values/principles are implicated by hSCR?
- Can you define the most important values/principles?
- Other considerations / thoughts?

ISSUE III: Responsibility for Creating a Regulatory Framework

- Who specifically should be involved?
- Why is their perspective or voice important?
- How do we best engage them and get their evidence?
- Who takes the lead in developing the framework and why?
- Other considerations / thoughts?

ISSUE IV: A (Research) Authority

- Is an authoritative body necessary?
- How might it be structured?
- Should its focus be research governance or clinical governance?
- Should its remit be innovation promotion or healthcare enhancement?
- Other considerations / thoughts?



ProReg Biotech

Protection, Promotion and Regulation of Biotechnology in Developing Countries

Introduction

The Principal Investigator for the ProReg Biotech project is Prof. Graeme T. Laurie, who acknowledges the generous support of SCRIPT and the AHRC, and it is undertaken with the collaboration of Fabiana Arzuaga, and the support of Shawn H.E. Harmon.

Aims & Objectives

The ProReg Biotech project is an international, interdisciplinary project intended to explore the effective and optimal promotion, protection and regulation of biotechnology in developing countries, with a particular emphasis, at the outset, on Argentina. Drawing on networks within Argentina concerned with biotechnological innovation, the project will facilitate the articulation and consideration of the legal challenges presented in the biotech governance environment, and explore avenues for meeting those challenges within the specific cultural settings of the case study jurisdictions. In particular, it will mobilise expertise to consider how biotechnologies might be effectively (1) regulated, (2) promoted, and (3) protected through judicious use of patent and other indirectly related regulatory regimes in Argentina and Latin America more generally.

Methodology

The ProReg Biotech project will consider three overlapping themes, namely (1) regulation, (2) protection and promotion, and (3) interconnectedness. In each case, a report on the current state of play will precede an assessment of the objectives of various stakeholders, followed by an account of present and future regulatory and hurdles and tools, and an exploration of the possibility for change and how change might be brought about.

Outputs

The ProReg Biotech project will produce policy briefs, academic papers, posters, and a variety of reports.

'Certain information and images contained in the workshop posters, including the UK-based empirical evidence, are drawn from the 'Talking About Stem Cells' project, more on which can be found at www.talkingstemcells.ed.ac.uk/.'